

[CLAIMS]

What is claimed is:

5 1. A method implemented on a user interface incorporated in a computer system coupled with a scanner for performing a scan operation on an original document, the computer system running a scanner driver and an application program; the method comprising the steps of:

determining a set of image processing settings by a scanner driving program that are suited for optimal scan of the original document;

10 activating the scanner to perform a scan operation on the original document based on the image processing settings to thereby obtain a primitive scanned image which is then transferred to the scanner driver;

activating the scanner driver to perform an image-enhancement process on the primitive scanned image to thereby obtain a quality-enhanced image; and

15 transferring the quality-enhanced image to the application program for use by the application program.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the image-enhancement process includes an automatic cutting routine.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the image-enhancement process includes a distortion correction routine.

20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the image-enhancement process includes a color calibration routine.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the image-enhancement process includes an automatic character recognition routine.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the application program is an image editing program.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the application program is a word processor program.

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8. A user interface incorporated in a computer system coupled with a scanner for performing a scan operation on an original document, the computer system running a scanner driver and an application program; the method comprising the steps of:

means for determining a set of image processing settings by a scanner driving  
10 program that are suited for optimal scan of the original document;

means for activating the scanner to perform a scan operation on the original document based on the image processing settings to thereby obtain a primitive scanned image which is then transferred to the scanner driver;

means for activating the scanner driver to perform an image-enhancement process  
15 on the primitive scanned image to thereby obtain a quality-enhanced image; and

mean for transferring the quality-enhanced image to the application program for use by the application program.

9. The user interface of claim 8, wherein the image-enhancement process includes an automatic cutting routine.

20 10. The user interface of claim 8, wherein the image-enhancement process includes a distortion correction routine.

11. The user interface of claim 8, wherein the image-enhancement process includes a color calibration routine.

12. The user interface of claim 8, wherein the image-enhancement process includes an automatic character recognition routine.

13. The user interface of claim 8, wherein the application program is an image editing program.

5 14. The user interface of claim 8, wherein the application program is a word processor program.

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